

The West Africa Study Circle

St. Helena & Ascension Supplement No. 15



THE WEST AFRICA STUDY CIRCLE

ST, HELENA & ASCENSION SUPPLEMENT NO, 15

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THE WEST AFRICA STUDY CIRCLE

ST. HELENA & ASCENSION SUPPLEMENT NO. 15

EDITORIAL

Well here I am again with my sixth Supplement: It was July 1988 when I produced Supplement No 10. after taking over from Roger West.

This Supplement sees some varied articles on Ascension KGV postmarks, St. Helena KGV Sheet numbers, the St. Helena Collections in the British Library - which will be continued in Supplement No 16., St. Helena Badge Issue varieties, and news from the auctions.

This Supplement is slightly late due to three reasons:- one a work schedule that kept me rather busy, two illness that laid me up for a few days before Christmas, third and lastly, shortage of suitable material for inclusion in the Supplement. I was lucky to receive an article right on top of Christmas that has helped me to complete this issue. So please remember I CAN ONLY PRODUCE THE SUPPLEMENTS IF YOU SEND ME THE INFORMATION!!!

Some Stop Press Information that has just reached me from Bob Deakin - he is organising a joint St. Helena and Ascension meeting for WASC members at 2 p.m. on Saturday 19 October 1991, to coincide with Autumn Stampex. This will be at the British Philatelic Federation office at 107 Charterhouse St, London EC1, more information in the July Supplement.

Wishing you a Happy and Philatelically Prosperous New Year.

BERNARD MABBETT

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ASCENSION: GEORGE V POSTMARKS

by BERNARD HUGHES

The August 1990 edition of *Stamps* had a well written article "A Country on the Up and Up - A Is for Ascension" by John Woolford. Let us hope it inspired more collectors to consider Ascension! On the second page, Woolford considers the difficult area of the post-1922 postmarks of Ascension, especially those found on the 1922 overprints: "It will help if postmarks found on the early Ascension stamps are illustrated here, and these drawings are taken from impressions on actual stamps of the 1922 overprinted set. Read the captions carefully." But there were only two illustrations, both apparently of the same postmark (certainly they are the same size and index letter), and no captions at all!

Can our Study Circle do any better? It is certainly a difficult area because there are so many forgeries. Quite a number of people seem to have preferred to make their own "fine used" rather than trust to the vagaries of corresponding with the Ascension Post Office! Those that I believe not to be forgeries are listed below - does anyone disagree?

Incidentally, it is worth remembering the exact size and shape of lettering varies slightly depending on how hard a strike is made, the amount of ink etc.

A. CIRCULAR POSTMARKS USED ON ASCENSION

This is the most straightforward group, I am sure no-one will dispute that these are genuine. Except the first, they are found on numerous commercial, as well as philatelic, covers.

TYPE 1. 24mm No Index Letter. This postmark was introduced when GB stamps were still in use, the earliest date that I have recorded is DE 4/20. This postmark was the first used on Ascension's own stamps, which were issued on 2 November 1922. The practice then was to postmark letters etc on the day of the mails (sometimes the day before), so one would not expect to find the new stamps postmarked on 2 November. The next mail to St. Helena and South Africa called on 22 November. I presume some of the new stamps must exist postmarked on that date, but I have not yet found any. The next mail to England (carried on Garth Castle) left on 1 December 1922, and this is the earliest date of use on Ascension stamps that I have seen. Mail posted through the British Post Office (presumably posted after the October mails) was also postmarked on these dates. Indeed a vast amount of mail, presumably mostly philatelic, seems to have been postmarked DE 1/22! My only examples of this no index letter postmark used on Ascension stamps are dated thus, but I think this postmark can also be found for January 1923.

I recall seeing OHMS covers used philatelically within Ascension bearing a full set of the overprints and postmarked on 29 January 1923. They are distinctive because they also have as an ornament the large "T" postage due marking - I think this is the earliest use of the "T", which continues in use to this day. Does anyone own one of these covers - if so, what postmark does it bear?

Illustrations of TYPE 1 - no Index letter:



NO 22/22



DE 1/22



DE 1/22



Forgery based on the no index datestamp - note larger letters (this forgery is common)

TYPE 2. 24mm A Index Letter. This seems to be Type 1 above with index letter A inserted. The earliest example I have in my collection is dated MR 13/23, and the latest 26 MY/26, but I have noted seeing it as late as 7 DE/26. It then disappears until it was brought back for some Coronation covers, and it can be found used between 19 MY/37 and 7 JU/37. Several forgers in the 1920's period used this postmark as a model - generally the lettering is larger in forgeries - as allegedly did Messrs J D Harris & Son on Coronation covers in 1937 (a subject that would be an article in itself). The genuine postmark was misused with pre-1922 date slugs to produce a large number of spurious "GB used on Ascension" - this "A" postmark cannot be found genuinely used on GB stamps. As an illustration I show a copy of the GB GV Die 2 2d "postmarked" on Ascension on FE 9/21, even though the stamp itself was not issued until August 1921 in England!



TYPE 3. 25mm C Index Letter. The earliest example I have is 6 OC/27, but I think it was introduced at the same time as the registered postmark early in 1927. The latest use I have is 27 OC/37. The lettering of this postmark is larger than on the other circular postmarks. Once again, several forgeries based on this postmark exist.



TYPE 4. 24mm C Index Letter. This is actually a George VI postmark, but it can often be found on George V stamps. It is so similar to Types 1 and 2 above that in my opinion it is the same old datestamp with a C slug inserted. Typically it is found rather faintly inked. The earliest use I have is 17 MR/38 (when George V stamps were still current) and the latest 26 JA/45. Later George VI covers show a similar "C" postmark but with larger letters.



REGISTERED POSTMARKS

A small group, but it is here the problems begin!

TYPE 5. 29mm A Index Letter. I have seen this only for 21 DE 25. The postmark is identical to the one found used in 1903-04 (Gibbons T5), and surely is the same one. My opinion is that it might be genuine, but I have not seen it on cover. Has anyone else an example, or any views on this?



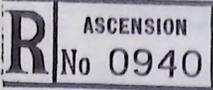
TYPE 6. 30mm C Index Letter. This is the only Registered postmark ordered by the St. Helena Post Office for Ascension. The earliest example I have is dated 28 MY 27, but I have noted seeing 22 AP 27 as well. It continued to be used until at least 1946, but in later years, it was often used away from the stamps, which were cancelled by the circular postmark. Though forgeries are found, the oval postmark does not seem to have been forged as much as the circular postmarks, perhaps 1930's collectors preferred circular postmarks.



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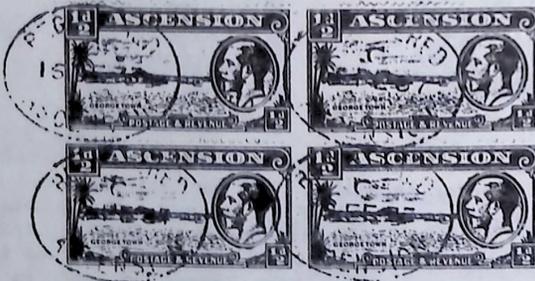
EXAMINER 6186

SI/21DL D.P.



T.W. HOWARTH
JONA HOUSE
WINDERMERE
ENGLAND

Registered cover (philatelic) with registered oval away from the stamps



S. Hawkins,
9, Carlton Place,
Southampton,
England.

Registered postmark used on un-registered philatelic cover

OTHER (?ST. HELENA?) POSTMARKS

This group is the most controversial. I have not seen either of them on commercial covers - has anyone else? They are unlike all the others listed above in that they are apparently usually found very black and well-inked, and whether on or off cover, often have the postmark applied to the centre of the stamp, right "on the nose", which is unusual with other postmarks. Most examples found are off cover, but covers can occasionally be found. Whilst I think they are both genuine, I have an open mind as to whether one or both were used on Ascension or on St. Helena.

TYPE 7. 23mm B Index Letter. This is the datestamp used on Ascension during the GB period 1911-1920 (the last recorded date being OC 1/20) brought back into use. I have only seen one date 27 FE/23. A large number of stamps, often in blocks, can be found, but I have not seen a cover. This datestamp could have been used on one mail from St. Helena before the "Square O" datestamp (below) was introduced, or could have been used on Ascension between the disappearance of the "no index letter" postmark and the introduction of the 24mm A postmark (if these are different postmarks) - the date would fit either scenario. As the "B" postmark was genuinely in use during the GB used on Ascension period, misuse with earlier dateslugs becomes harder to detect, but I have an Edward VII Harrison 2½d with a very dubious "B" postmark for 11 JY/04, which cannot be right!



TYPE 8. 20mm A Index Letter (Square O). This postmark is quite different from other Ascension postmarks, and is best known for the square shape of the O in ASCENSION. The datestamp's rough appearance suggests it may have been rubber, not steel. It can occasionally be found with the month as a figure, not letters, unlike all the other postmarks, for example 27 1/24, not 27 JA/24.



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Examples of the Square O can be found "used" from around 1900 onwards, but all those found "used" on GB stamps are undoubtedly spurious, false year slugs having been inserted into the genuine datestamp. John Leonard in *'The Postage Stamps of Ascension Island'* was particularly critical of these spurious "GB used on Ascension". But use 1923-25 appears definitely to be genuine. The earliest date I have seen is JU 13/23, an example is illustrated in John Attwood's WASC Ascension Study Paper *'Mail from Ascension 1897-1976'*; another cover has a clear BPA certificate (64313/1969), incidentally. The latest date that I have seen is OC 31/25. At one time, even those used 1923-25 seem to have been regarded as fakes, but covers such as those mentioned above surely prove this to be mistaken.



Registered

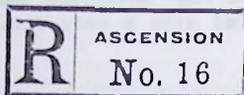
W. T. Wilson,

18, Livingstone Road,

Handsworth,

Birmingham,

England.



THE CASE FOR ST. HELENA USE: On page 7 of Philip Beale's fascinating WASC Ascension Study Paper No 1 - *'Ascension's Post Office 1922-1924'*, he reproduces a letter dated May 17th 1923 from the Ascension postmaster in which he describes how he sends large or complicated requests, especially where registration was required, on to the St. Helena Post Office to be dealt with there. The first batch was certainly cleared using St. Helena postmarks, as the 1922 overprints can quite often be found postmarked ST. HELENA/DE 14/22.

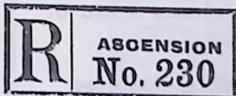
But although, occasionally, later St. Helena postmarks can be found, these are few and far between, and cannot account for all the orders the Postmaster describes - 200-300 stamps per order in some cases, so thousands in total - and as all were for stamp dealers and collectors, many must still survive. Dealers would not be pleased to receive Ascension stamps with St. Helena postmarks, and must have made it clear that they required Ascension postmarks. As the Ascension Postmaster was unable to deal with all the orders, and as the St. Helena office (whose staff earned 1.25% commission on all their business at that time, including their sales of Ascension stamps, according to Beale) was anxious to be involved, the obvious way to satisfy the demand would be for the St. Helena Post Office to obtain an Ascension datestamp and a stock



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of Ascension registered labels (the main stock of Ascension stamps was kept at St. Helena anyway for security reasons). This would explain why commercial covers seem not to be found with these postmarks, and also why, despite a large quantity of Ascension mail being sent to St. Helena for processing, very few Ascension stamps are found with St. Helena postmarks during 1923-25. Allocation of the "B" and Square O postmarks to St. Helena would solve all these problems.

THE CASE FOR ASCENSION: The normal practice was for mail to be postmarked immediately before a mail was despatched, so all mail sent to England should have gone out postmarked with the same date. I suppose staff in St. Helena would know when mails were due to be sent, and could have used the same date according to the mail programme, but otherwise the odds against their using the same date would be 28 to 1, as mails went every four weeks. Yet both the Square O and the 'normal' A postmark can both be found used on 23 AP/25 - see the illustrations below and at the middle of Page 8. Whilst the latter is only available to me in photocopy form and I cannot check the shade or perforations of the registered label (and this type of Ascension label does vary in shade and perf size), the registered labels look similar, given that the position of the word ASCENSION can vary within the sheet, in the same way that the position of the vignette of the 1934 definitives varies considerably within each sheet when compared with the frame. Other dates I have researched do not match up, for example mail to England can be found with the normal A postmark for 10 OC/25 and then 7 NO/25, whilst Square O postmarks are found 31 OC/25 - though the possibility of this coming from the mail to or via South Africa (a small but significant portion of the mail) cannot be ruled out.



Mr. L. Fleister

Delia

It would be interesting to know what other Study Circle members think, or if anyone can come up with a conclusive test that might settle the matter. As I say above, I have an open mind.

KING GEORGE VI - SHEET NUMBERS

by ROGER B WEST

In Supplement 9 page 29, I wrote about the position of sheet numbers on the King George VI definitives. At that time, three variations were known:

- a) sheet number above the sixth stamp in row one (top right corner),
- b) sheet number above the third stamp in row one (top right corner if the sheet is halved), and
- c) no sheet numbers at all.

Theories had been offered to the effect that (a) is the 'normal' position, (b) the normal position for any odd half sheets, and (c) the un-numbered sheets, was the usual practice for sheets distributed through the Crown Agents. None of these theories have really been substantiated, in fact, I would be inclined to reject (b) altogether as such sheets would be very rare - I have several examples and have seen even more.

Recent studies have unearthed two items which only complicate matters further. I have a block of 15 (3 x 5) of the 2d orange with the sheet number in the left hand side margin adjacent to row 7, and a similar size block (also of the 2d orange) with the sheet number in the right hand margin adjacent to row 10 (see illustration). An observation which may be significant is that these Waterlow sheets of 6 x 10 were roughly square. If you turn the blocks around so the numbers are at the top, they virtually line up with columns 3 and 6.

Comments or details of further oddments would be most appreciated.

Roger West
Ashleigh
Monument Lane
Codnor Park
Nottinghamshire
NG16 5PJ

0773-608899

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Sheet Number in top margin above column 3



Sheet Number in top margin above column 6



Sheet Number in left hand side margin adjacent to row 7



Sheet Number in right hand side margin adjacent to row 10

FISHY PHILATELIC FUTURE FOR ST. HELENA

By TREVOR HEARLE

If, as one assumes, Stamp Committees choose subjects to enhance a country's image, then St. Helena might surely be expected to focus on its new-found sources of income - coffee and tuna. I would not say that the export of either will make St. Helena rich, or that it arouses great enthusiasm among Islanders. But while sufficient coffee is left for local sale and access to fish stocks is assured to local fishermen, it is accepted. If included in the Colony's future philatelic menu they might arouse interest, if not pride, in Island production.

Fish is St. Helena's latest export. Indeed, as the Statistical Yearbook (1989) emphasises, "the only export of any significance is fish." Its value has risen from £18 thousand in 1985 to over £125 thousand in 1989, when fishing licences accounted for a further £420 thousand. But the long term story of St. Helena Fisheries - now told in an excellent book by Alasdair Edwards (reviewed elsewhere) - is not so encouraging that the present efforts will not need all the support they can get. A little philatelic publicity would not come amiss. The St. Helena Fisheries Corporation nevertheless hope that, with improved methods of processing, their new products will whet commercial, as well as gourmet, appetites overseas. And recently an initiative by John Rogers of the Natural Resources Institute, hosting a trade fish-lunch at Chatham, has resulted in frozen vacuum packs of St. Helena fish - choice Tuna, Wahoo, Barracuda and Jack - being sold in the U.K. by C.J. Newnes, 73 Billingsgate Market, London E14 5TQ. Philatelists will recall that some of these very fish graced St. Helena stamps as recently as July 1985 - Rock Bullseye (7p), Mackerel (11p), Skipjack Tuna (15p) and Stump (50p) - illustrating 'Marine Life', while others (Cunning

Fish and Trumpet Fish) put in an appearance in 1961. 'Fisheries' has never featured on the Colony's stamps, however, but now Dr. Edwards' fine photographs and sketches give designers material to work on.

That coffee arabica has not already appeared on a stamp is surprising as the third annual shipment of St. Helena coffee is shortly going to Taylor's Tea & Coffee at Harrogate. St. Helena coffee is drawing gourmets to Harrogate - a young Swiss couple recently went there specially to try it - and no doubt it would be an added attraction for tourists to St. Helena, if only they knew about it! Stamps make cheap advertisements.

Whether tourism - potentially a far more lucrative income-generator - will find favour as a future theme with the Stamp Committee seems more doubtful. Tourist maps and a tiny tourist budget are planned to coincide with the introduction of the new, larger RMS St. Helena, the St. Helena-Ascension Island shuttle ship, and the projected St. Helena airfield. And who is to use this extra passenger capacity if not visitors?

But finally, let us not forget the money-spinner that imposes few demands on the local community - philately! As revenue from this source goes into the coffers of the Crown Agents, unfortunately it does not appear in the St. Helena Government's Statistical Yearbook. Yet however good a year it has been for stamp sales, it will only put small-change in the Treasury's purse with Britain's grant-aid to the Colony for the 1989-90 year estimated at over £24 million. But this allowed only £15 million for the new RMS St. Helena - the cost of which has rocketed to over £32 million. It will take a lot of coffee, fish, tourists and stamps to make up that little deficit!

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ST. HELENA
THE TAPLING COLLECTION IN THE BRITISH LIBRARY

by P. BEALE & B. MABBETT

The collection comprises six sheets of mounted stamps with brief hand-written headings. The colours are noted by P.B. and B.M. All stamps are mint unless otherwise described. Dates are as given in the collection.

1856	6d blue imperf	5 stamps and a pair on slightly blued paper.
1862	6d blue perf 14-16½	4 stamps.
	perf 14-15½	1 stamp.
1863	One Penny overprint lake	17mm imperf 7 stamps.
	Ditto	18½mm imperf 1 stamp and a pair.
1863	Four Pence overprint red carmine	17mm imperf 1 stamp.
	Weak frameline over L of St. Helena.	
1863	6d lake imperf no overprint	1 stamp.
1863	Four Pence carmine-red overprint imperf	2 stamps and a pair
	One single stamp has the weak frameline over L of St. Helena.	
1864/68	Overprinted stamps perf 12½ with thin bar over value 16-17mm.	
	One penny lake	5 stamps.
	Threepence deep purple	2 stamps.
	Fourpence carmine	3 stamps.
	One shilling green with trace of yellow	2 stamps.
	One shilling deeper green than above	1 stamp.
	As above but thicker bar 14mm.	
	One penny lake	3 stamps.
	Twopence lemon yellow	3 stamps.
	Threepence deep purple	2 stamps.
	One shilling green a lighter shade than	
	on previous stamps	4 stamps.
	Five shillings yellow orange	2 stamps.

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1871 Overprinted stamps perf 12½. Wider spacing in overprint lettering.

One penny lake	17-18mm bar	2 stamps and a pair.
Twopence lemon yellow	17-18mm bar	2 stamps and a pair.
Fourpence pale lake	14mm bar	6 stamps, overprint 18mm.
Fourpence pale lake	14mm bar	1 used stamp double overprint.
Fourpence pale lake	14mm bar	1 pair, overprint 19mm.
One shilling green	thin bar	3 stamps, overprint 18mm.

1873/74 Described as on white wove paper CC wmk perf 12½ Value overprinted.

6d ultramarine	no overprint	1 stamp and a pair.
6d dull blue	no overprint	2 stamps.
One penny lake		1 stamp.
One penny pale lake		1 stamp.
Twopence lemon yellow		1 stamp.
Threepence purple		1 stamp.
Fourpence carmine		1 used stamp and 1 mint.
One shilling green		1 stamp.

No date As above but perf 14.

One penny lake		1 stamp.
One penny pale lake		1 stamp.
Twopence lemon yellow		1 stamp.
One shilling pale green		2 stamps.
6d grey	no overprint	1 stamp.
Threepence purple		1 stamp.
Halfpenny pale green		1 stamp.
Halfpenny ditto but double overprint		1 stamp.

The forgeries in the Tapling Collection were documented in Supplement No 12 by Jeremy Martin.

ASCENSION INFORMATION

by JOHN ATTWOOD

In the January 1987 issue of the Cameo, Jeremy Martin illustrated some re-entries to 'ASCENSION' on a block of four of the 1934 K.G.V. 1½d. Pictorial. Michael Wood, a W.A.S.C. member has found a 1934 Ascension 1½d. with similar retouches to those Jeremy described. The retouches are similar to stamps 1 on rows 1 and 2 of Jeremy's block, but not quite. Can any other member add further knowledge, particularly as regards consistency and frequency over the sheet/row ??

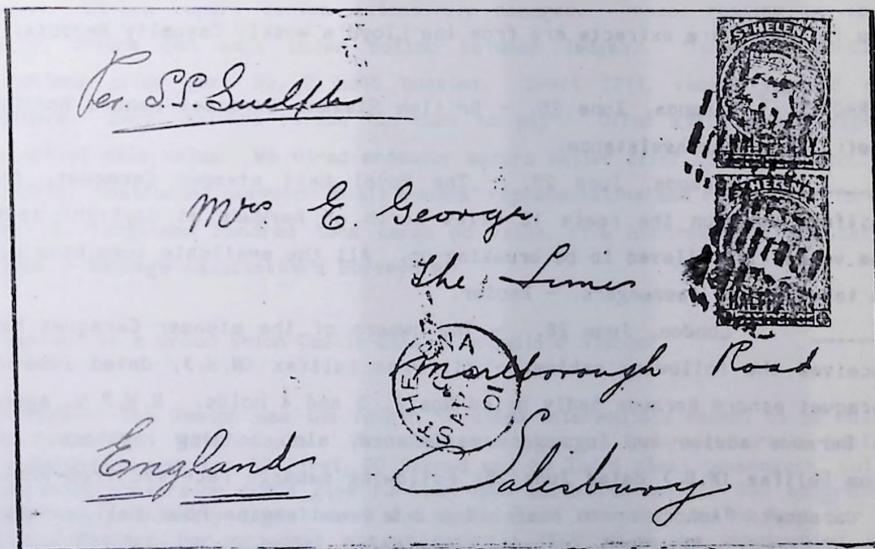
I have just seen an example of the missing centre bar to the "E" of the right hand "POSTAGE" on the 1922 Provisional Issue 1½d. value.

Evidence earlier indicated this was a progressive flaw, possibly caused by debris building up in the recess of the printing plate. However in the example I have just examined, the stamp is overprinted 'SPECIMEN'! This seems to turn the debris theory on its head. Just to confuse matters further I have examples of the 1½d. value (not specimen) with full centre bar; part centre bar; and no centre bar! So we have another mystery which readers of the Supplement might unravel.

THE S.S. "GUELPH"

by BERNARD MABBETT

Several years ago before I sold my collection of St. Helena Postal History, I had in that collection a cover from the George correspondence endorsed 'Per S.S. Guelph'. Most of the covers from the George correspondence are endorsed with the name of the vessel that it was to be sent on. This particular cover is of interest in the fact that it shows the earliest recorded use of the C.D.S. with the code letter 'C'. The cover passed from my hands to the collection of Don Lampart and was auctioned by Gibbons in December 1986 when Don sold his collection through them. The history of the S.S. 'Guelph' is also of interest, and I thank Lloyd's of London for the information they have willingly provided.



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Steamer "Guelph" of Southampton, Official Number 104040, 4,917 tons gross, 3,112 tons net, built 1894 by Harland & Wolff Ltd., Belfast, owned by Union Steam Ship Co. Ltd. (Managers - Currie & Co.). Her dimensions were 400.5 ft. (length), 47.3 ft. (breadth), 26.9 ft. (depth).

REGISTER BOOK CHANGES

- 1900 Absorbed into Union-Castle Mail Steamship Co. Ltd.
- 1910 Tonnage changed to 4,890 gross, 2,992 net.
- 1911 Currie & Co. no longer Managers.
- 1913 Sold - Renamed "Caraquet", owned by Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.
- 1914 Net tonnage changed 2,975 tons.
- 1923 Stranded June Bermuda.

The following are extracts are from the Lloyd's Weekly Casualty Reports:

CARAQUET. - Bermuda, June 25. - British Steamer Caraquet ashore Northern Reef. Tugs gone assistance.

_____ Bermuda, June 25. - The Royal Mail steamer Caraquet, from Halifax, went on the reefs 12 miles north of Bermuda at daylight today. The vessel is believed to be breaking up. All the available tugs have gone to take off the passengers. - Reuter.

_____ London, June 26. - The owners of the steamer Caraquet have received the following cables: - (1) From Halifax (N.S.), dated June 25: Caraquet ashore Bermuda badly holed Nos 2, 3 and 4 holds. R.M.P.S. agents at Bermuda advise two tugs gone assistance, also sending lighters. (2) From Halifax (N.S.) dated June 25: Following message received from Master of Caraquet: "Ashore north reefs, Nos 3 & 4 and engine room full. Making arrangements salvage cargo. Passengers, mail and part crew being landed. Retaining officers, engineers and working party.

No immediate danger of ship breaking up; do not consider much hope of salvaging, without powerful salvage plant." Have ascertained that the fully equipped wrecking steamer Merritt with experienced personnel, available at Norfolk (Va)

(3) From Bermuda, dated June 25: Caraqueet: Engine-room and all holds except No. 5 hold with quantity water strong swell vessel at present lying easy but in unfavorable position owing reefs. Passengers and mails landed, endeavoring salvage cargo on "no cure no pay" operations.

The information from Lloyd's goes on with a day by day account, and rounds off finally with:-

CARAQUET. - New York, July 15.- Steamer Caraqueet: Our surveyor reports all lower holds machinery boiler spaces full fore and aft, tide rising and falling in vessel. Divers report bottom extensively damaged. Vessel resting on four ledges, divers can walk under bottom between ledges. Tweendeck plating stanchions after part No. 2 hold buckled. Draft 22ft, vessel exposed all weathers. Local salvors refuse "no cure no pay". Offer strip vessel eighty percent of sale value. We wired endeavor secure better offer fifty per cent. if possible. Instructed surveyor await owners' representative and return New York. July 17. Eighteen hundred tons cargo no value, five hundred tons dry cargo salvaged. - Salvage Association's Surveyors.

A sad end to a proud Union Castle Line Intermediate Steamer.

(BH ADDS:- The Guelph was the fourth 'G' class intermediate vessel to be built, the first with three masts. Her name was that of Queen Victoria's family. Accommodation was for 50 First, 60 Second and 60 Third class passengers, but a 'tweendeck conversion could give further open accommodation for 500 emigrants, which was presumably useful when she served as a troopship in the Boer War in 1900. Perhaps her proudest moment came in 1909 when she inaugurated the Antwerp-London-Suez-East Africa "Royal East Africa Service" of the Union-Castle Line, aimed at rivalling the Deutsche Ost-Afrika Linie.)

ST. HELENA & SOUTH ATLANTIC
BOOKS IN PRINT

Books in print lists South Atlantic material - books, maps, periodicals etc. - currently available in the U.K. For a complete list, send stamped addressed envelope to T. Searle, 49 Newton Lane, Prestbury, Cheltenham, GL52 5DD.

ST. HELENA CANCELLATION

In the July 1990 Supplement, I illustrated on behalf of Derek Law a St. Helena dumb cancellation with the word 'CANCELLED' across the centre, requesting information. Philip Beale writes:

"I was most interested to see the illustration of the CANCELLED obliteration shown in the Supplement.

Peter Newroth showed me a copy of a letter in the De La Rue Correspondence Books written by the Gold Coast Colonial Secretary in 1896:

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Governor to inform you that in order to lessen the temptation to abstract and sell used stamps from the telegraph and counterfoil forms, it has been suggested that such stamps might be cancelled by means of rubber stamps bearing the name of the place, the word cancelled and the date of application.....

I suggest that this happened in St. Helena and that a CANCELLED stamp was introduced. The other possibility is that the obliterator was used when stamps were used fiscally, but this is unlikely as the stamp you show reads Postage Postage, not Postage Revenue as in many other colonies...."

THE ST. HELENA COLLECTIONS
IN THE BRITISH LIBRARY

By P. BEALE & B. MABBETT

Back in October 1989, Philip Beale invited me along to the British Library to view the Tapling and other Collections housed there. Philip and I spent much of the day there making notes on the stamps from 1856 to the KGV Centenary issue, and also on the requisition books from 1921 through to the end of the KGVI issues. I have only just managed to get round to setting my notes down in black and white, and I hope to get them into the January and July 1991 issues.

CROWN AGENTS

BOX SA 1.

- 6d. Lake overprinted 1d. imperf.
- 6d. Deep Purple overprinted 3d. imperf. Short thick bar 14mm.
- 6d. Carmine Red overprinted 4d. imperf.
- 6d. Very Deep Blue, rough perf (imperf top and bottom) used.

1890-97 QV Key Types.

All values illustrated with the notes that the 1½d. plate destroyed 1897, 6 other plates destroyed in 1902.

1903 Pictorial Issue

All six values illustrated, colours exceptional due to being kept covered up.

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BOX SA 2.

1908 EDVII 10/- Imperf in issued colours.

1916/1919 KGV War Tax Issues.

1922 KGV Set of 3 in single colours.

1922-37 KGV Badge Issue.

Crown CA values:- 4d., 1/6d., 2/6d., 5/- and £1.

Script CA values:- ½d., 1d., 1½d., 2d., 3d., 6d., 8d., 1/-, 1/6d., 2/6d.,
5/-, 7/6d., 10/- and 15/-.

Values missing 5d. and 2/- Script CA.

Imperf proofs of ½d., 1d., 2d., 5d. and 2/-.

1934 KGV Centenary Issue all values.

BOX SA 7.

KGVI Unissued Pictorials.

½d. Block of 6 imperf punctured Specimen. Approved 14/6/51.

1d. Block of 6 imperf punctured Specimen. Approved 14/6/51.

1d. Vignette imperf punctured Specimen. Approved 9/7/51.

Outer frame punctured Specimen. Approved 9/7/51.

Vignette plate No 44394.

Frame plate No 44395.

1½d. Vignette imperf punctured Specimen. Approved 9/7/51.

Outer frame punctured Specimen. Approved 9/7/51.

Vignette plate No 44393.

Frame plate No 44394.

- 2d. Vignette imperf punctured Specimen. Approved 24/7/51.
Outer frame punctured Specimen. Approved 24/7/51.
Vignette plate No 44394.
Frame plate No 44392.
- 3d. Block of 6 punctured Specimen. Approved 20/6/51.
- 4d. Block of 6 punctured Specimen. Approved 20/6/51.
Plate No 41047.
- 6d. Block of 6 punctured Specimen. Approved 20/6/51.
- 8d. Block of 6 punctured Specimen. Approved 20/6/51.
Plate No 41048.
- 1/- Block of 6 punctured Specimen. Approved 22/6/51.
- 2/6d. Block of 6 punctured Specimen. Approved 25/6/51.
- 5/- Block of 6 punctured Specimen. Approved 28/6/51.
- 10/- Block of 6 punctured Specimen. Approved 28/6/51.
Specimen is punctured diagonally from bottom left of stamp to top right.

Both Philip and myself are of the opinion that these are the approved colours for the unissued KGV Pictorials being designed by De La Rue at that time.

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KGVI Colour changes.

3d. Grey and 4d. Ultramarine of 1940.

KGVI 1949 Issue.

1d. Black and Green, 1½d. Black and Carmine and 2d. Black and Scarlet.

Die proofs in black on paper for the Frame and the Vignette dated 12/4/49.

KGVI 1938-44 Issue.

Die proofs of finished stamps.

4d. 10/2/40.

8d. 20/2/40.

8d. on plain paper 20/2/40.

Die proof with value tablet blank with notation: approved subject to specific conditions 8/9/37.

KGVI Centenary Issue.

Sat of colour plate proofs Imperf dated 14/12/33.

QEII Tercentenary Issue.

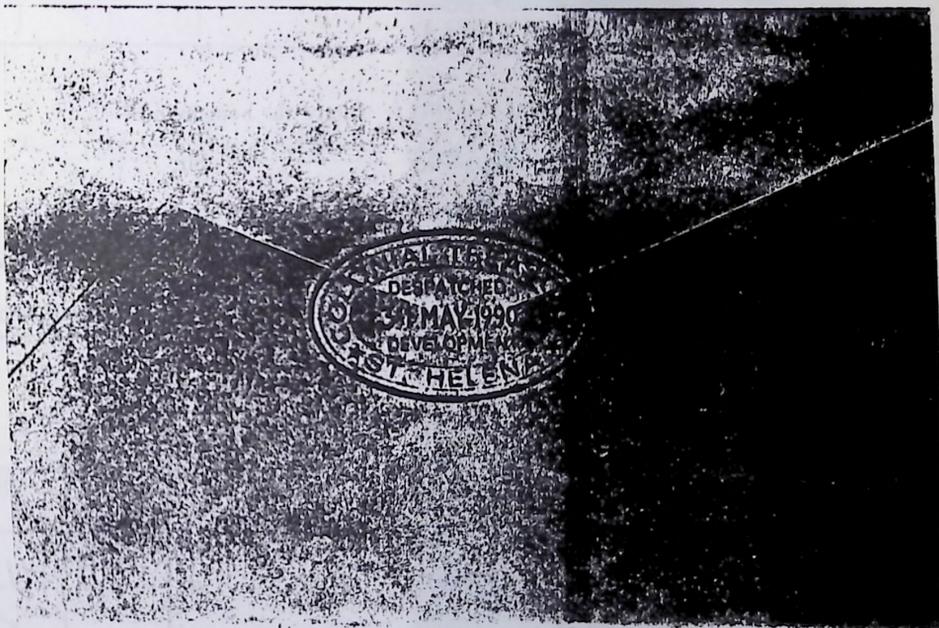
Black proofs on paper for 3d., 6d., and 1/- values dated 26/2/59, 25/2/59 and 19/2/59 respectively.

In the July Supplement, I intend to list all the stamps ordered and despatched from the records in the Requisition Books from 1921 through to 1940.

FOR THE RECORD

As some of you may know, I have a soft spot for the Departmental handstamps of St. Helena, and I am always on the lookout for anything new or interesting.

I have recently acquired an O.H.M.S. registered cover dated May 31st 1990 with a Colonial Treasury handstamp on the reverse which reads, "DESPATCHED/DEVELOPMENT" above and below the date in the centre.



No 264

THE CASTLE,
ST. HELENA,

30th December 1898

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your (un) registered Letter of the *29th* of *November* containing *Post Office Order* to the Value of *£ 1 - 5 - 0* for Stamps which I enclose herewith as enumerated below, of which are on the Envelope.

On and after the 31st January 1899 I have the honour to be

the stamps of the old issue noted overleaf will be on sale and

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

will be sent on receipt of Remittance

[Signature]

For Colonial Secretary.

Value of Sheet.	Number of Stamps.		Value of Stamps.		£	s.	d.
	Ordered.	Sent.					
5 0		<i>14</i>	10 Pence.	Brown, (1896)			<i>11 8</i>
2 10		<i>14</i>	5 "	Violet "			<i>5 10</i>
6 0			6 "	Ultramarine, (1893)			

ST HELENA & ASCENSION SUPPLEMENT NO 15

1	5	12	2½	"	Dark Blue (1896)	...	...	...	2	6
1	0	12	2	"	Yellow	"	...	...	2	0
0	10	12	1	Penny.	Red	"	...	...	1	0
0	5	12	Halfpenny.	Sea Green	"	...	...	...	.	6
		6	1	Penny.	Post Cards Single	...	...	...	.	6
		6	2	Pence.	" Cards Reply	1	2

NOTE—6d. Stamps, 240 to a Sheet.
Other " 120 " " "

To Mrs. W. Knecke Esq

Total... £

1	5	0
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48 Chandos Street

Charing Cross W. C.

London

NOTE.—The obliteration of Stamps for purposes of sale is strictly forbidden.

Post Office Orders, Bank of England Notes, and Gold, only accepted.

The exact number of Stamps required must be stated.

POST OFFICE,
ST. HELENA,

W.B.
No. _____

Sir, _____ 189 _____.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your unregistered Letter of the _____
of _____ containing _____

to the Value of £ _____ for Stamps which I enclose herewith as enumerated below, part
of which are on the Envelope.

*The stamps of the old issue
noted below will be on
sale at this office after the 31st
January 1899.*

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

For Colonial Secretary.

Number of Stamps.		Value of Stamps.	Description	£	s.	d.
Ordered.	Sent.					
		5 Shillings.	Orange			

ST HELENA & ASCENSION SUPPLEMENT NO 15

	1 Shilling.	Green (1895)	...	...	...	...
	6 Pence.	Ultramarine	...	...	...	...
	4 "	Brown	...	...	...	...
	3 "	Purple	...	...	...	...
	2½ "	Blue	...	...	...	...
	2 "	Yellow (1895)	...	...	...	...
	1½ "	Red and Green	...	...	...	...
	1 Penny.	Red	...	...	...	...
	Half-penny.	Green	...	...	...	...
NOTE—240 Stamps to a Sheet.									

Total... £

To _____

Post Office Orders, Bank of England Notes, Gold, and ~~Postal Orders~~, only accepted.

300 6/95

ST. HELENA KGV ½d, BADGE VARIETIES

by DAVID LEWIS

Recently I bought a lot of St. Helena in auction which contained many ½d. Badge issues. Unfortunately many were stuck together, corners off, browned gum etc. The main purpose was to study what was there. This is a summary of the result.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *As most collectors know, the stamps of this issue were printed in 5 rows of 12 stamps per row. Previous articles in past issues of the Supplement have given the stamp number only. David's article was written using the row/stamp notation so I have had to convert this to stamp numbers with the row/stamp notation in brackets for those specialists who prefer that method.*

Stamp 1. (1/1) White blob on frame line (like the round piece displaced from a perforation) just above the EL of HELENA.

I have a copy of the 1½d. Deep Carmine Red with the same variety.

Stamp 2. (1/2) The gaps between the lines of shading having smaller lines (~ 1mm) next to the right hand frame and the bottom right hand frame blurred. (2 copies).

However a copy of stamp 1. (1/1) does not show this variety.

A block of four stamps 5/6/17/18. (1/5-1/6-2/5-2/6) did not show varieties previously mentioned in study papers for stamps 5/6. (1/5-1/6), but did show on stamp 18 (2/6).

Stamp 12. (1/12) Break in top frame 4mm from right.

Stamp 13. (2/1) The break in the Main Mast varies on one copy: it is just the width of the Mast, on three others it is about another ½mm long. On these three copies there are breaks on the bottom frame 2 to 3mm from the left and 1mm from the right. There is also a break (sometimes difficult to see) on the right frame next to the water line and a distortion of the lower frame and a white patch next to the distortions 2½mm from the bottom. Variety stamp 1. (1/1) only seems to exist on this printing as it is not on a copy in a block of six where the Mast break is only the width of the Mast.

Stamp 14. (2/2) Two breaks 1mm apart on bottom frame 2½mm from right.

Stamp 21. (2/9) Black spot in small white patch over eye. (One copy).

Stamp 27. (3/3) Right frame dented 10/11 line of shading and break in right frame 1mm from the bottom.

Stamp 32. (3/8) Outer frame top left hand corner is broken into flower (two copies) but missing from another. As well as the break in the 11th line of shading there is a V shaped break to the right of the Mizzen Mast just to the right of the second arm down.

Stamp 36. (3/12) Bottom frame broken 1½mm from right (two copies).

Stamp 45. (4/9) Break in top frame 1mm from left on one copy, but not on another.

Stamp 53. (5/5) Two vertical lines close together from rigging by Mizzen Mast through hull to water, clear on two copies, just on another.

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Stamp 57. (5/9) Break over A of NA in outside frame of name (three copies). I cannot be sure of position, but a vertical pair looks to be stamps 45/57 (4/9-5/9) variety.

Stamp 60. (5/12) Two copies with break over L of HEL.

The following I cannot position.

Two copies with dent in outer medallion frame at bottom.

Three copies with break in outer right vignette frame 1½mm from top right hand corner.

Break in top frame 4mm from left. These are adjacent stamps, the first flaw in the right hand copy, the second in the left hand copy.

All these varieties have black centres, the following have brown centres.

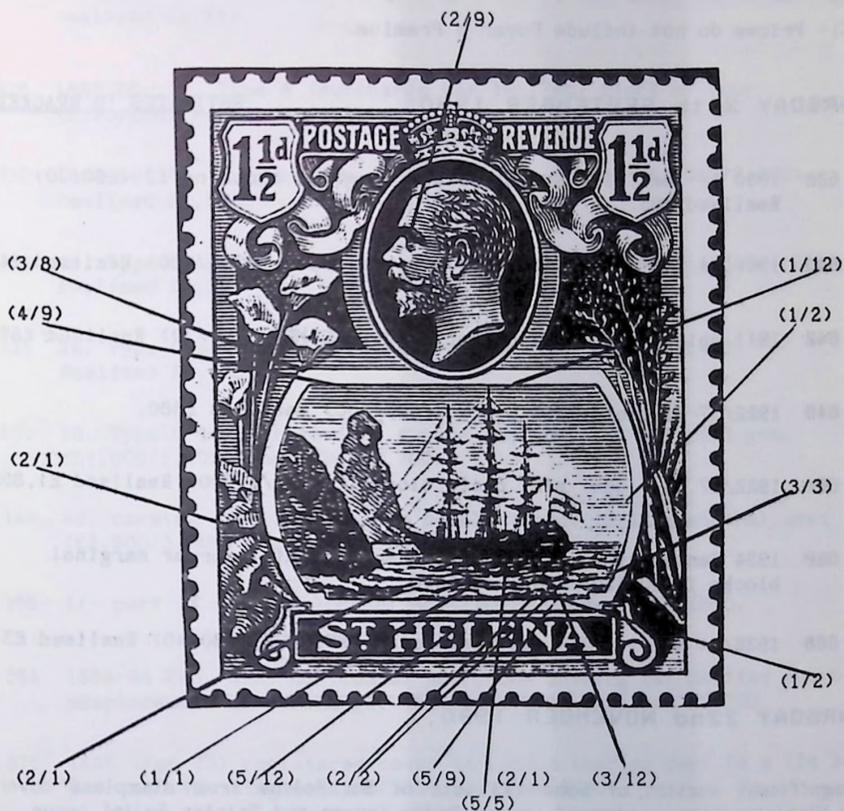
Stamp 4. (1/4) Top left hand value tablet broken.

Stamp 13. (2/1) Bottom Margin has a long break but only small break over T of ST and weakening of frame at left.

Stamp 14. (2/2) Does not show two breaks over N of ENA.

Sandafayre have a 1½d. Deep Carmine Red with retouching down the right hand side outside the vignette. From what I can see from their photo it is the same as I have. I also have one with similar retouching down the left hand side.

ST HELENA & ASCENSION SUPPLEMENT NO 15



ST HELENA & ASCENSION SUPPLEMENT NO 15

FROM THE AUCTIONS

In recent months there have been two very important auctions of St. Helena material through Phillips. It would be impossible to list all the superb items from these sales but I will try to pick out some of the better items.

NOTE:- Prices do not include Buyer's Premium.

THURSDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 1990.

ESTIMATES IN BRACKETS.

- Lot 688 1880 1/- perf 14, a mint corner marginal block of 12 (£60/70)
Realised £95.
- Lot 640 1908 CA 10/- unmounted mint block of four (£300/350) Realised £440
- Lot 642 1911 unissued 1d. red overprinted SPECIMEN (£50/70) Realised £85.
- Lot 649 1922/37 £1 mint plate block (£600/800) Realised £880.
- Lot 664 1922/37 15/- unmounted mint plate block (£1,200/1,500) Realised £1,850.
- Lot 666 1934 Centenary ½d. to 10/- in unmounted mint corner marginal
blocks (£450/550) Realised £600.
- Lot 668 1938/44 ½d. to 10/- set perforated SPECIMEN (£30/40) Realised £37.

THURSDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 1990.

A magnificent auction of some 143 lots of St. Helena from stampless covers, rare Victorian stamps, stamped covers, Badge issues and Tristan Relief issue.

- Lot 308 1866 (Jan 10) entire to Bordeaux with good strike of the oval St. Helena date stamp in blue (£100/120) Realised £320.
- Lot 319 1861 clean cut perf 14 to 16: 6d (£200/250) Realised £250.

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- Lot 321 1861 rough perf 14 to 16: a mint block of six (£1,200/1,500)
Realised £1,250.
- Lot 325 1863 CC: 1d. Type A (surcharge bar 16-17mm) block of four
(£150/200) Realised £190.
- Lot 332 1864-80 CC: 1d. perf 12½ mint surcharge double (£1,500/2,000)
Realised £1,500.
- Lot 333 1d. Type B imperf horizontal pair, marginal at foot (£800/1,000)
Realised £1,250.
- Lot 334 2d. Type C surcharge in blue-black unused (£1,200/1,400)
Realised £1,000.
- Lot 335 2d. Type C surcharged double, one albino, part original gum.
(£1,000/1,200) Realised £1,700.
- Lot 340 4d. carmine Type B surcharge double (words 18+19mm widths) used
(£2,500/3,000) Realised £5,000.
- Lot 355 1/- perf 14 a mint block of 35 (£400/500) Realised £550.
- Lot 361 1884-94 2½d. mint horizontal pair, one showing bar omitted due to
misplacement of surcharge. (£1,000/1,200) Realised £2,200.
- Lot 375 1885 (Feb 23) registered cover to London bearing perf 14 x 12½ 3d.
pair and 4d. single (£300/350) Realised £460.
- Lot 377 1888 (Feb 13) cover to London bearing perf 14 2d., perf 12½ 4d.
(£170/190) Realised £280.

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- Lot 380 1895 registered cover to St. Albans (£250/300) Realised £360.
- Lot 384 1901 (Sept 28) 1d. postal stationery card with additional ½d. and 1½d. stamps with Type 2. censor mark initialled G.A.A.B. (£100/120) Realised £160.
- Lot 386 1903 Master die proof of Wharf vignette and frame, endorsed "Before Hardening" (£200/250) Realised £320.
- Lot 400 1d. imperf colour trial in brown and green overprinted SPECIMEN (£160/180) Realised £200.
- Lot 414 1922-37 1s block of four C.T.O. (£700/900) Realised £820.

TRISTAN RELIEF ISSUE

- Lot 441 Set in corner marginals with sheet nos (£800/1,000) Realised £900.
- Lot 442 Set late cancel on cover addressed locally (£600/700) Realised £600.
- Lot 444 Ditto similar item (£550/600) Realised £550.
- Lot 445 Set in corner marginal blocks with plate numbers (£2,500/3,500) Realised £2,600.
- Lot 446 Set in horizontal pairs with upper margins C.T.O. (£1,200/1,400) Realised £1,250.
- Lot 447 Set in horizontal pairs with lower margins C.T.O. (£1,200/1,400) Realised £1,200.
- Lot 448 Set with upper margins C.T.O. (£550/600) Realised £580.